

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1-22. (CANCELED)

23. (NEW) A process for manufacturing a metered dose inhaler for dispensing an inhalation drug formulation comprising a drug and a fluorocarbon propellant, comprising:

providing a metered dose inhaler can having a mouth, a cap for covering the mouth of said can, and a drug metering valve;

applying to at least one internal surface of said can, cap or drug metering valve which comes into contact with said inhalation drug formulation, without prior application of a primer thereto, a fluorocarbon polymer, optionally in combination with one or more non-fluorocarbon polymers, to form a coating on said at least one internal surface of said can, cap or drug metering valve; and

assembling said can, cap and drug metering valve into a completed metered dose inhaler.

24. (NEW) The process according to claim 23, and further comprising the step of introducing into said metered dose inhaler said drug formulation.

25. (NEW) The process according to claim 24, wherein said drug formulation is introduced into said can through said valve.

26. (NEW) The process according to claim 23, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied to said cap.

27. (NEW) The process according to claim 23, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied to said valve.

28. (NEW) The process according to claim 23, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied as a coating to an internal surface of said can and said coating is thereafter cured at an elevated temperature.

29. (NEW) The process according to claim 28, wherein said can is formed of strengthened aluminum or an aluminum alloy.

30. (NEW) The process according to claim 28, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied to an internal surface of said can at a thickness of 1  $\mu$ m to 1 mm.

31. (NEW) A process for manufacturing a metered dose inhaler for dispensing an inhalation drug formulation comprising a drug and a fluorocarbon propellant, comprising:

providing a metered dose inhaler can having a mouth, a cap for covering the mouth of said can, and a drug metering valve;

applying to an internal surface of said can, which comes into contact with said inhalation drug formulation, a fluorocarbon polymer, optionally in combination with one or more non-fluorocarbon polymers, to form a coating on said internal surface of said can; and

assembling said can, cap and drug metering valve into a completed metered dose inhaler, wherein said coating has a thickness of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

32. (NEW) The process according to claim 31, wherein said coating has a thickness of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 25  $\mu\text{m}$ .

33. (NEW) The process according to claim 31, wherein a primer is applied to said can before application of said fluorocarbon coating.

34. (NEW) The process according to claim 31, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied to said can without prior application of a primer.

35. (NEW) The process according to claim 23, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied to said can by electrostatic dry powder coating.

36. (NEW) The process according to claim 23, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied to said can by spraying a preformed metered dose inhaler can inside with said fluorocarbon polymer and then curing at an elevated temperature.

37. (NEW) The process according to claim 36, wherein curing is conducted at a temperature of 300°C to 400°C.

38. (NEW) The process according to claim 36, wherein curing is conducted at a temperature of 350°C to 380°C.

39. (NEW) The process according to claim 23, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is coated on said can by *in situ* plasma polymerization at the can walls using fluorocarbon monomer.

40. (NEW) The process according to claim 39, wherein plasma polymerization is conducted at a temperature of 20°C to 100°C.

41. (NEW) A process according to claim 24, wherein the fluorocarbon propellant is 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane, or 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoro-n-propane or mixtures thereof.

42. (NEW) A process according to claim 24, wherein the fluorocarbon propellant is 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane.

43. (NEW) A process according to claim 23, wherein said can is made of metal wherein part or all of the internal metallic surfaces of the can are coated.

44. (NEW) A process according to claim 43, wherein the metal is aluminium or an alloy thereof.

45. (NEW) A process according to claim 23, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is a perfluorocarbon polymer.

46. (NEW) A process according to claim 45, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is selected from PTFE, PFA, FEP and mixtures thereof.

47. (NEW) A process according to claim 24, further comprising fitting said metered dose inhaler into a suitable channeling device for oral or nasal inhalation of the drug formulation.

48. (NEW) The process of claim 23, wherein said can comprises side walls and a base of a thickness greater than 0.46 mm and said fluorocarbon polymer is applied to said can.

49. (NEW) A process for manufacturing a metered dose inhaler having internal metallic surfaces for dispensing an inhalation drug formulation comprising a particulate drug and a fluorocarbon propellant selected from the group consisting of 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane, 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoro-n-propane and mixtures thereof, comprising:

providing a metered dose inhaler can having a mouth, a cap for covering the mouth of said can, and a drug metering valve, wherein said can comprises side walls and a base having a thickness greater than 0.46 mm;

forming a coating from a polymer composition comprising one or more fluorocarbon polymers on at least one of said internal metallic surfaces which comes into contact with said inhalation drug formulation without prior application of a primer thereto; and

assembling said can, cap and drug metering valve into a completed metered dose inhaler.

50. (NEW) The process according to claim 49, and further comprising the step of introducing into said metered dose inhaler said drug formulation.

51. (NEW) The process according to claim 49, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied to said cap.

52. (NEW) The process according to claim 49, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied to said valve.

53. (NEW) The process according to claim 49, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied as a coating to an internal surface of said can and said coating is thereafter cured at an elevated temperature.

54. (NEW) The process according to claim 49, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied to said can by spraying a preformed metered dose inhaler can inside with said fluorocarbon polymer and then curing at an elevated temperature.

55. (NEW) The process according to claim 54, wherein curing is conducted at a temperature of 300°C to 400°C.

56. (New) The process according to claim 54, wherein said coating has a thickness of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 1 mm.

57. (New) The process according to claim 54, wherein said coating has a thickness of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

58. (New) The process according to claim 54, wherein said coating has a thickness of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 25  $\mu\text{m}$ .

59. (New) The process according to claim 23, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied as a part of a polymer composition comprising said fluorocarbon polymer and a non-fluorocarbon polymer.

60. (New) The process according to claim 28, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied as a part of a polymer composition comprising said fluorocarbon polymer and a non-fluorocarbon polymer.

61. (New) The process according to claim 31, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied as a part of a polymer composition comprising said fluorocarbon polymer and a non-fluorocarbon polymer.

62. (New) The process according to claim 43, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied as a part of a polymer composition comprising said fluorocarbon polymer and a non-fluorocarbon polymer.

63. (New) The process according to claim 49, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied as a part of a polymer composition comprising said fluorocarbon polymer and a non-fluorocarbon polymer.



64. (New) The process according to claim 53, wherein said fluorocarbon polymer is applied as a part of a polymer composition comprising said fluorocarbon polymer and a non-fluorocarbon polymer.